

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

**April 6, 1999**

**FROM:**       **CHARLES R. JERVIS**, Director  
                  Arrowhead Regional Medical Center

**SUBJECT:**     AMENDMENT 1 TO AGREEMENT 98-208 WITH INLAND EMPIRE COURIER OF  
                  LOMA LINDA, CALIFORNIA

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve Amendment 1 to Agreement 98-208 with Inland Empire Courier of Loma Linda, California, to deliver prescription medications to certain patients.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** As required by Welfare and Institutions Code section 17000, the Medical Center provides necessary health-care services to medically indigent adults, which include prescription medications. It is less expensive to provide drugs for long-term use through the Medical Center Pharmacy than through commercial pharmacies.

The Medical Center is able to purchase these medications at very advantageous prices. Savings of over \$1,000,000 per year on the cost of drugs can be documented. However, because many recipients live in remote locations and do not have transportation, it is necessary to deliver the medications to them. Initially, the County Medical Center used a commercial delivery service, but it was found to be unsatisfactory because of the number of lost packages and lack of records verifying delivery, which required that the medication be dispensed a second time.

In cooperation with the County Purchasing Department, the Medical Center began to look for a qualified vendor to provide delivery service. A small local firm, Inland Empire Courier Service, was located. They provided service on a trial basis from late 1997 until early 1998. The quality of the service was excellent; and accordingly, a one-year agreement was established and approved by the Board of Supervisors on April 6, 1998.

The company charges \$108,000 per year to deliver the medications, and the price is unchanged from the original contract. The charges vary from month to month dependent upon the number of deliveries close to \$9,000 per month as expected. For the last year, the Medical Center has used Inland Empire Courier and has had no problems with loss of orders.

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:** Inland Empire Courier has shown its ability to provide prompt, accurate service and maintain the necessary records. It also provides temperature-controlled delivery units that are necessary for certain orders.

**REVIEW BY OTHERS:** This action has been reviewed by County Counsel (Charles J. Larkin, Deputy County Counsel).

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** The total value of the contract is estimated at \$108,000 per year.

**PRESENTER:** Charles R. Jervis, Director, Arrowhead Regional Medical Center.

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Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors